

President Biden has already done enough damage. From his first day in office, he canceled the Keystone pipeline and paused all domestic leases and sales. He has tried to blame everyone from Putin to price gouging and private industry.

But the facts are clear. The Biden administration is currently sitting on over 4,400 pending applications for permits to drill which must be approved so American workers can produce more American-made energy. That makes sense. In addition, Biden's regulatory and inflationary burdens are thwarting the creation of new large-scale refineries which are also needed to increase production. The Biden climate czar, former Senator John Kerry, said last week that we don't need any more domestic drilling. My constituents and I beg to differ.

Prior to President Biden assuming office, the United States was a net exporter of energy, and the price of gas dipped below \$2 a gallon. The greatest Nation on the face of the Earth should never have to rely on Saudi Arabia, Venezuela, Iran, Russia, or any other hostile nation to meet its energy needs. It is also not realistic to believe we can transition to a green economy overnight without significant cost to consumers.

However, we can regain American energy independence, create American jobs, and lower prices at the pump by implementing the pro-growth, commonsense policies of the previous administration, which is why I have co-sponsored the American Energy Independence from Russia Act. Unfortunately, House Democrats have blocked this critical bill seven times on this very floor. That means they are blocking energy solutions for lowering gas prices by boosting domestic energy production. This includes resuming the Keystone XL pipeline, restarting oil and gas leases on Federal lands and waters, and requiring a plan to replace the Strategic Petroleum Reserve that has been drained by this administration. It is just not right.

I don't know what message my colleagues' constituents on the other side of the aisle are sending to them. But back at home, the message has been very clear. What are their constituents telling them? From my constituents, the message is extremely clear. My constituents want Washington to stop its obsessive spending of money we don't have to push a green agenda, and they want lower prices at the pump. We need to do it now. It is urgent that we do it. It is critical that we do it.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in this fight.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair and not a perceived viewing audience.

Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

THE INFLATION CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SMUCKER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SMUCKER. Madam Speaker, on September 1 of 1980, inflation was at almost 13 percent. On that day, then Governor Ronald Reagan said: "Recession is when your neighbor loses his job. Depression is when you lose yours. And recovery is when Jimmy Carter loses his." Unfortunately, today is looking a lot like 1980, and the Carter and the Biden Presidencies share far too much in common.

□ 1045

President Biden has unnecessarily spent trillions of dollars, spiking inflation into a 40-year high of 8.6 percent. As a result of this inflation, American households will pay an additional \$7,620 as they buy gas, food, and other things over the next 12 months—\$7,620 annually.

Since Biden became President, real wages are down 4.2 percent while mortgage rates have doubled, have gone up 2.4 points. Our economy shrank 1.4 percent last quarter, and many economists now agree that these signs point to an imminent recession.

The President now points to the Federal Reserve to get him out of the inflation mess that he created. Today, I will point out what that may mean and talk about the challenge that the Fed faces to rein in inflation.

I have a chart here with me that compares the Federal funds rate, which is its benchmark interest rate, and inflation rates over the past 60 years. If you look at the chart, you will see two lines on the graph showing inflation and the Fed rate. Each time that the Fed looked to reduce inflation, they increased the interest rate, and they have increased the interest rate each time above the current inflation rate.

So, for example, in the early 1980s, which I mentioned earlier, following President Carter's era of stagflation, the Fed raised rates to a record high of over 16.5 percent to reverse what was 13 percent inflation at that time. So once again, this would suggest that for the Fed to do its job and rein in inflation, it will need to increase interest rates above our current rate of inflation.

So far this year, the Feds have raised the Federal fund rate three times, most recently with a .75—or $\frac{3}{4}$ percent—increase, which is the highest increase since 1994, but the Federal funds rate still only sits between 1.5 and $1\frac{3}{4}$ percent.

Current rates are $1\frac{3}{4}$ percent, and again, inflation is 8.6 percent and climbing. This suggests that the Fed has a long way to go in raising interest rates, and has a lot of work to do ahead. What isn't shown in this chart—and sometimes I am not sure if the Biden administration understands—are the consequences that come with raising rates.

Our economy will slow down, and it will be harder for Americans to start

small businesses and to purchase homes. We are already seeing that happening. The cost of living will increase, and Americans will see hard times. This did not have to happen.

President Biden overinflated an already recovering economy by spending trillions on the American Rescue Plan, which included market-distorting policies that unnecessarily subsidized demand while restricting supplies by paying people to stay home.

Now, as I said, the President is relying on the Fed to fix it but, unfortunately, it is the American people who will be paying the consequences.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND WORK OF MARY E. WHEELER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. TENNEY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. TENNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and work of my dear friend, Mrs. Mary E. Wheeler of Yorkville, New York.

I came to know Mary in a role no one ever wishes to have, that of a Gold Star mother. Mary's son, Private First Class Joseph Keith Wheeler, a United States marine, was killed in combat on March 31, 1968, in Quang Tri Province in Vietnam, at just 18 years old.

Mary and her family were devastated by the loss of Joseph. But through Mary's pain, she found great purpose to support other Gold Star mothers and their families, as well as Active-Duty members, veterans, and their loved ones.

Mary was active until the day she passed in the American Gold Star Mothers Chapter 56 in Utica, New York. This led to Mary being national president of the American Gold Star Mothers from 1999 through 2000, meeting Gold Star mothers and families from across this Nation and interacting with political leaders of both parties in Washington for commonsense policy to support veterans and their families, especially those who paid the ultimate sacrifice, like her dear son, Joseph.

Mary was heavily involved in other veteran service organizations, such as The American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Military Order of the Purple Heart Auxiliary, and countless other organizations in our community, including the Whitestown Senior Center and the Salvation Army, which she supported her entire life.

Mary was also dedicated to her family: her late husband, Charles; her children; grandchildren; and great-grandchildren. Mary's great-grandson, Shaun, and her great-granddaughter, Skylar, have a special place in my heart as Skylar's grandmother, Felicia, was my longtime administrative assistant for over 25 years. They all were a very important part of my life, and I considered them family. So I had another connection to Mary through her great-grandchildren.

Words cannot do justice to the many contributions by Mary throughout her

great life, the many lives she has touched, including the mothers and the families she supported. It was an honor and a privilege to get to know Mary, not only through the great work she has done, but to know what a genuine person and kind soul she was and a wonderful mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother.

Mary will be an inspiration to all of us for so many years to come, and her hard work and dedication will be felt by veterans and their families for generations not just in our community, but throughout the Nation for her great work and devotion to this cause.

My sincerest condolences to Mary's family and her friends, and everyone in our community for this difficult time in losing Mary, who was a wonderful, honored member of our community.

PROTECTING HEARTBEATS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, as the Nation awaits the Supreme Court's official ruling on *Dobbs v. Jackson*, which many of us pray will overturn *Roe v. Wade*, we have witnessed a despicable wave of leftwing threats and violence against our judges, our churches, pro-life groups, and crisis pregnancy centers.

Let's be very clear on this. Pregnancy centers are 100 percent noble and heroic organizations that proudly serve vulnerable mothers at their most critical time of need. They are an invaluable resource across America. Because these centers save lives and not end them, they find themselves under attack.

Since May 2, the day Justice Alito's draft decision was leaked, there have been nearly 30 documented attacks on these centers, including, but not limited to:

A pregnancy center in Madison, Wisconsin, torched by a Molotov cocktail on May 8.

Capitol Hill Crisis Pregnancy Center right here in Washington, D.C., vandalized with blood red paint on June 2.

Pregnancy Resource Center in Buffalo, New York, firebombed on June 7.

Pregnancy Resource Center in Gresham, Oregon, firebombed on June 10.

And, of course, the attempted assassination of Justice Kavanaugh outside his home.

Since May 2020, more than 130 acts of vandalism, or worse, have been committed across 29 States and the District of Columbia against pro-life Catholic properties alone. The proponents of these attacks are radical leftwing groups that are openly vowing to terrify pro-life leaders and institutions into backing down from defending the unborn.

They have made threats like, "If abortions aren't safe, neither are you." They have promised "to take increas-

ingly drastic measures" and that "those measures may not come in the form of something so easily cleaned up as a fire or graffiti." They are currently calling for a "night of rage" after the Supreme Court announces its decision.

When fear, intimidation, and violence are deployed to compel legitimate government institutions to act a certain way, it must be called what it is: terrorism.

These recent threats and attacks must be totally condemned, investigated, and prosecuted. This violence must end.

Our Nation needs to hear from the leaders of our Democratic Party that these extremists call home: Speaker PELOSI, Majority Leader SCHUMER, and President Biden have so far refused to utter even a single word of disapproval or discouragement. To them, Americans of goodwill plead: Your silence is deafening. Speak up.

To the Supreme Court Justices, to their families, and to the millions and millions of pro-life Americans from coast to coast, I say this: Be not afraid. We are most likely on the cusp of an epic victory. It will be the culmination of 50 years of work. We must not back down or tire, for the end of *Roe v. Wade* will mean the beginning of a new era in which our voices and our passion are needed more than ever.

For those of us in elected office who sincerely believe that human life is a sacred gift from God and in need of society's protection, our position is no longer theoretical. We now have a pressing responsibility to examine how public policy can best be crafted to adequately accomplish that goal. I believe we already have an answer.

When an expectant mother visits a doctor for an ultrasound, the image of a beating heart is the first confirmation that a child has been conceived.

When someone is involved in a severe accident, a medic will check for a pulse to make sure the victim is alive. In short, a heartbeat means life.

To legislate consistently to this truth, I introduced the Heartbeat Protection Act in the U.S. House of Representatives. This bill will legally prohibit future abortions from being performed if a pre-born child's heartbeat can be detected, with the exception of when a mother's life is in danger. It is a science-based, humanity-respecting solution suited to the new landscape in which we now find ourselves. The post-*Roe* world is here.

As legislators in each State determine the extent in which they wish to defend life, pro-life Members of Congress can simultaneously take action to make our beloved country a place where children waiting to be born and their mothers are acknowledged and safeguarded. As we all move forward, may clarity, compassion, and our consciences, guide us.

Madam Speaker, we have watched 50 years of the pro-life movement. I have attended many of the pro-life marches

here in D.C. There is nothing more peaceful, there is nothing more prayerful than the assembly of hundreds of thousands of Americans from around the country coming together to march in support of the pro-life measures.

I would hope at this point in our history, as we watch the rest of the world unravel and as we watch these horrible things happen around our country, we say to ourselves: It is time to stop the violence. It is time to look forward. It is time to save the lives of the unborn.

After millions and millions of children have been aborted, it is time to start saving them. They are as important as any other life on Earth.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 57 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Lord, our God, we exalt and praise Your name. For You, in Your perfect faithfulness, have done wonderful things, things planned long ago.

Reveal Your steadfast love to those who are being ravaged by senseless warfare—the Ukrainians whose cities are a heap of rubble, whose towns are now ruined—but not because of Your vengeance. The breath of the ruthless has been like a storm driving against a wall, like the heat of the desert.

Holy God, silence the uproar. Give relief from the intensity of this battle. Still the song of the avenger.

Once again, prove Yourself the refuge for the poor in spirit, a refuge for the needy in distress. Provide the people of Ukraine shelter from the storm of war waged against them. Give them shade from the oppressor's heat of wrath.

Then, sovereign Lord, wipe away the tears from all faces, remove the disgrace of Your people. May they rise to proclaim:

"Surely, this is our God. We trusted in Him, and God saved us. This is the Lord. We trusted in God; let us rejoice and be glad in God's salvation."

So may it be, according to Your Word, we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to section 11(a) of House Resolution 188, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.